

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

GIBBONS, Jim (Republican)
Representative, 2nd District, Nevada
Elected 1996 to the 105th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congress



BACKGROUND

Born: Sparks, Nevada - 16 December 1944

Home: Reno, Nevada

Marital status: Married (Dawn) - 3 children

Religion: Protestant

Education: University of Nevada, BS, 1967; MS, 1973; Southwestern Law School, JD, 1979

Military: USAF, 1967-71, Capt; Nevada ANG, 1975-95, USAFR 1995-present, Col. Served in the Gulf War, flying 36 missions over Iraq and Kuwait. Earned DFC for service in Desert Storm.

Profession: Airline pilot (Delta); lawyer; mining company owner

Political: Nevada State Assembly, 1989-93. Defeated Thomas Wilson (D) with 59% of the vote for the seat of retiring Rep Barbara F. Vucanovich (R). Reelected in 2000 with 64% of the vote and in 2002 with 74%.

Rep Gibbons is a conservative who wants to cut federal taxes. Speaks in favor of veterans' rights and benefits. Considers himself a moderate on the environment.

An ardent supporter of the military, he voted in favor of the FY02 Defense Bill that includes legislation for approx \$4 billion for the F-22 fighter. The F-22 will be housed for testing at Nellis AFB beginning in the summer '02. He is a strong supporter of the F-22 and urged members Congress and DoD to purchase enough F-22 Raptors to adequately meet the needs of national defense and does not support the proposed cuts to 339 Raptors. He remains vigilant in guarding Nevada's bases, he urged the President to protect Nevada's bases from closure citing their strategic importance. He expressed great concern about cannibalization rates and spare parts accounts, an issue he has been vocal about for 5 years (HASC Subc on Readiness Hearing 11Jul01).

During the 107th Congress, Rep Gibbons sponsored HR 3026, a bill to establish an Office of Homeland Security within the Executive Office of the President to lead, oversee, and coordinate a comprehensive national homeland security strategy. Gibbons stated, "to protect national security, we have to improve human intelligence (HUMINT) capabilities" (Hill News 26Sep01). Opposed the Yucca Mtn site for storing nuclear waste. Strongly supported using military tribunals for trying suspected terrorists. Asserted that terrorists should be treated as war criminals. Expressed little sympathy for the 2 ANG pilots facing charges as a result of a friendly fire incident in Afghanistan. Said, "it is obvious that they failed to comply with all the regulations with regard to combat situations."

During the 108th Congress, will take a leave of absence from the Veterans' Affairs Cmte to serve on the Sel Homeland Security Cmte.

Additional: Wife is also a member of the Nevada State Assembly. Member of Air Force Caucus, Air Power Caucus, and National Guard and Reserve Components Caucus.

AF Bases: Nellis AFB; Indian Springs Air Force Aux Field; Nellis AF Range; Reno-Cannon IAP (ANG)

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